

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**MOGAN CULTURAL CENTER
LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
KHMER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT I**

**INFORMANT: YOU NUON [CAMBODIA]
TRANSLATER: SARANN NUON
INTERVIEWER: MEHMED ALI
MALE VOICE: [UNIDENTIFIED]
DATE: APRIL 11, 2004**

**Y = YOU
S = SARANN
A = ALI
? = MALE VOICE**

**Tape 04.02
Side A**

Interviewer asks questions to Informant You Nuon, and Mr. Nuon answers questions most times in Khmer. Sarann translates for both parties whenever necessary.

A: Okay, this is interview with You Nuon on April 11, 2004.

Y: Yes.

A: First a few background questions, where and when were you born?

Y: I was born in Cambodia, (A: Okay) at Province Battambang. (A: Okay) [Name of town unclear]

A: The name of the town?

S: The town, town? Village? District.

Y: [Unclear]

S: Town? Village?

Y: Pom?

S: Pom, village?

Male voice: Yah, village. I can help out.

Y: [Unclear].

Male voice: Province.

S: Town, not Province? Town? Town?

Male voice: I think it's more like a town.

S: Okay.

A: And what year were you born?

Y: I was born from [S: April] 14, '28.

A: Oooh! You have a birthday coming up in a few days.

Y: Yes.

A: Great. And what year was it? Year of the horse? Year of the monkey? What year?

S: 1928 [Communicates with Yuon in Khmer]. 1928. I don't know what animal.

A: Now did you always live in that part of Cambodia?

Male Voice: A goat. He's a goat.

A: Goat, okay.

Male Voice: Year of the goat.

Y: [Conversing in Khmer with S]

S: Where did he grow up? Yes I know. Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

A: So you lived in Battambang, Phnom Penh, and Siem Reap?

Y: Yes.

A: And were your parents moving around to those places, or was this when you were an adult?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: He basically lived with his older brother, sister, sister. Yes.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

A: Okay, so you lived with the monks, with the [says the work monks in Khmer].

Y: Yes

A: Okay. What did your parents do for work?

S: I'm sorry. Can you repeat the question? I'll help him, okay.

A: Sure, yah. What did your parents do for work?

S: [Repeats question in Khmer] Maybe I sit next to you. His parents [unclear]. Small business? Trading. Small business.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Yah, business is trading. [All laughing and speaking in Khmer]

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Your English is good. English is good [unclear].

A: You're doing great.

S: Yah, yah! Okay, what else?

A: I just wanted to talk about your family tree, okay? So first I wanted to try and get your, the name of your mother's father.

Y: [Suon Ong].

A: [Suon Ong], that's your mother's father.

Y: Father, Nuon [unclear].

S: Nuon [unclear].

A: Who's that?

S: That's the father.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

A: His father?

S: Yah. The mother is [Suon Ong]

A: So say it again. Repeat it for the microphone please.

S: [Speaks to You in Khmer] Suon Ong.

Y: Suon Ong.

A: Is his father.

S: Mom, mother.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer] Tok!

Male voice: Nickname Tok.

A: Nickname, Tok. That's, that's his mother.

S: Mom, yah.

A: Okay. And his father's name?

Y: Nuon [unclear].

S: Nuon [unclear].

A: And where was your mother born?

Y: Father, mother born in Battambang, Province Battambang.

A: Okay.

Y: Yah.

A: And how about your father? Where was he born?

Y: The same. The same.

A: The same, okay. Now your mother's father, your grandfather on your mother's side?

S: [Repeats question in Khmer].

A: What was his name, your mother's father?

S: On the mom's side, or dad's side?

A: Mother's father. His mother's father.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

A: Does he know? Do you know any of the names of your grandparents?

S: [Repeats question in Khmer]

A: He doesn't know?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: When they lived in like the countryside, the rural area; when they live in the countryside in the rural area, then they moved to the city, you know, and then they [unclear] I guess it was just unknown.

A: Okay. What did you do for fun when you were a child?

S: [Translates question in Khmer]

Y: Football.

A: Football?

Male voice: Soccer ball.

S: Soccer, yah, same thing soccer.

Y: Soccer.

A: Yah, soccer. Okay. Great.

Y: Soccer.

A: What was your first job?

Y: First job? [Says in Khmer]

S: Teacher.

A: Teacher, okay. How old were you when you started teaching?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Twenty-four.

A: And did you go to school to learn how to teach?

Y: Yes.

A: You did. And where, where did you go?

Y: I studied pedagogy for one year.

A: You studied Biology?

S: Physiology?

Y: Pedagogy.

A: Oh pedagogy, yah.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Okay, teaching profession.

A: Yah, pedagogy.

Y: For a year.

A: You studied pedagogy for one year.

Y: Yes, for one year.

A: And where did you go to school at to learn that?

S: [Repeats question in Khmer].

Y: In Phnom Penh.

A: In Phnom Penh?

Y: Phnom Penh.

A: Was?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: It was a French school?

Y: French, French, French.

A: What does that mean in English, that school name?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: That name of a person.

A: Name of a person?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Okay, so under the French colony. So.

A: Did you learn from a French person, the pedagogy?

S: [Repeats in Khmer].

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He say he learned French, learned French between the ages of eight to ten years old.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: During World War II the Thai came into Cambodia.

Y: Thai in Cambodia. Thai [unclear] Battambang, Siem Reap, Pursat, Kompong Thom

A: Okay. They invaded, they invaded Battambang, Siem Reap, Pursat, (Y: Kompong Thom) and KomPong Thom, Provinces.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: They invaded, they take over.

Y: Take over. Take over [unclear].

S: Six years.

A: Six years.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: And he studied six years of Thai.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: Okay. What happened during World War II? What were you doing?

S: [Repeats in Khmer].

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He was in school between ages of four and ten.

A: Okay.

Y: [Continues in Khmer].

S: So when the Thai came in he studied Thai after the French.

A: Okay. Now did you get involved in political activities for independence back in the 1950s?

S: [Repeats in Khmer]... independence from French 1953? You helped?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Ah, he was studying, so he did not help.

A: Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Oh he was a monk during that time.

A: Okay. So tell us when you became a monk?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: From the ages of 21 to 24.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Yah, for three to four years he was a monk during that time of independence.

A: Okay. Did you eventually get interested in politics?

S & Y: [Speak in Khmer with each other].

S: He was just a teacher, not politically involved. [Unclear] military?

Y: 1917, call from military, go to [unclear].

S: Yes, he was called to duty for reserve in 1970.

A: Is this before [Lon Nol] took power, or after?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: After.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: So as soon as Lon Nol took power in 1970 you had, you had to serve in the military?

Y: I in military from 1970 until 1975.

A: Okay. And what did you do during that five-year period?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Okay. He was in charge of selecting, or recruiting military. Recruiting for how many? One sergeant (--) Two battalions. He was in charge of recruiting two battalions. Right? Two?

Male voice: Yah

S: Yah, okay. Good. Uh huh.

A: Now before you went in the military were you a teacher during all of the 1960s?

Y: From 1973, ah, 1953 until 1970.

A: Okay, you were a teacher, and you were teaching where? In Battambang?

Y: Before I teaching in Siem Reap. (A: In Siem Reap) Yes. After that I come to Battambang.

A: Okay, and what brought you to go to Battambang?

All conversing together in Khmer.

S: He asked them to, permission to change the location. He didn't specify why, just to change the location. He asked the minister, government.

A: Now when you were a recruiter for the army in the 1970s, did you have an easy time to recruit, or a hard time?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Oh okay, they already recruited.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Oh, he ranked them. I think he ranked them. He was in charge of (--) The recruitment was already done. He was in charge of placing them into the (A: the unit) the unit. Yes.

A: Okay. Do you have any interesting stories during from that period 1970-75?

S: [Repeats question in Khmer].

Y [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He has many, many stories.

A: Please share a couple with us.

Y & S: [Speak to each other in Khmer]

S: Ah, he even wrote a book. Oh okay, the *Khmer Communist* is a book that he wrote.

Y & S: [Speak to each other in Khmer].

S: Publication, *Khmer Communist*. In 1971 they took him into the (--)

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

Male voice: Like detectives. Secret Service.

S: Okay, Secret Service. Ah, Secret Service. In 1971 he was placed in the Secret Service.

A: Okay, so tell us what happened?

Y: Until 1975.

A: And what did you do as Secret Service?

Y & S: [Speak in Khmer].

S: So he was recruited to go to a Province, or a town to find out what is going on.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Town? Oh okay, to go into the forest, the dense forest to find out (--)

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Communists. Okay, to find out information.

Y & S: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: Okay. So just tell us, just tell us some of your stories and Sarann will translate, and we'll get this down as your story.

S & Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He wants you to ask questions, specific questions.

A: Okay.

S: He doesn't want to tell stories.

A: Okay, okay. So when you went out into the jungle, did you find communists out there?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He is the big, he's like a higher level. He tells me to go into the forest, find out if there are communists, okay, and I come back to you. Okay, and then I come back and tell them the information. So he's already at a higher level.

A: Okay. And where, where were you based at when you were doing this? In Phnom Penh?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He was in Phnom Penh. He has many stories, but one story, he's in Phnom Penh.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He called one military guy named [unclear] Lim.

A: [Unclear] Lim. What, I have to teach you Khmer? [All laugh]

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

Male voice: Sergeant.

S: Sergeant

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He asked [Unclear] Lim, who is a sergeant.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He asked him to go to a forest called, in the area of Takeo. [Unclear] Lim has many friends up in the forest there. All his friends there are Vietnamese. One of his friends has a wife who is Vietnamese.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: This woman, who was Vietnamese, took a [Unclear] Lim to the forest to meet the head of the Vietnamese (A: Viet Kong), Viet Kong, yes, leader named [Buon Tong].

A: Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Like a captain, or like a high level?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

Male voice: He's Commander and Chief of that reason.

S: For the Viet Kong?

Male voice & Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: [Buon Tong], who is the Viet Kong high Commander in charge of [unclear].

A: Takeo.

S: Takao, Kompong Thom, Svay Rieng, and probably Kompong Thom also, but maybe, yah. But he's in charge of basically many you know, large areas there.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: So [Unclear] Lim went and found this information and brought back guns. How many?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Maybe two barrels or something of just guns.

Male voice: Two pistols.

S: Pistols?

A: Two pistols? (Y: Yes) Okay.

S: From China? Just two pistols?

Male voice. Yah, two pistol from China.

A: Chinese-made pistols, two of them. And what happened then?

S: Then he brought it back. [Continues in Khmer]

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He wrote a report to, okay, to the higher-up in the government, Cambodian government.

A: To his superiors.

S: And then they caught him. They found bombs, and land mines.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: Plastic explosives?

Male voice: Yah, like T&T? Explosive materials.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Feels like a cheese, and you put it somewhere and just explode, and disassembles rocks and everything.

A: And so who? You sent the report to your superiors?

S & Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: Higher up. And they went and found Buon Tong?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: They cannot (--) After the report is submitted, his superior cannot capture Buon Tong.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: The only found equipment, explosives, the guns, they cannot find him, Buon Tong.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: The Vietnamese are very smart. They're not stupid. So they cannot, their leader is already gone.

A: Did you ever capture any Khmer [unclear]?

S: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: The Khmer Rouge?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: No. When he was recruiting of the [unclear].

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: When he was (--) He found the wife of the Khmer Rouge, and he captured the wives of the Khmer Rouge. That's what he did when he was not in the Secret Service [unclear].

A: Okay. And what did you do with those women?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: So he captured them so that the husbands cannot come and try to find their wives. Contact them.

A: What happened in 1975?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: In 1975 the Lon Nol military was not, did not lose.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: But they didn't, the military of Lon Nol did not want to fight. Why not?

A: Why? Why didn't they want to fight?

Male voice: The war seemed too long. They didn't want to fight anymore.

S: They're tired. They're tired of the war. They don't want to fight.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Yah, they don't want to fight.

A: Like the Americans in Iraq right now?

Y: Yah, like that.

S: They don't want to fight.

A: Try to, try to translate as best as you can.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

A: Like Americans in Vietnam.

Y: Yes, like that.

S: They don't want to fight, okay.

A: So where were you in April of 1975?

Y: April 1975 [speaks in Khmer]

S: He took off all of his military clothes. He put on a black shirt, black pants.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He pretends to be a regular civilian. Why?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He went everywhere, different places.

A: Where were you originally? At the beginning of the month, before they took over Phnom Penh, before the Khmer Rouge took over Phnom Penh, where were you on April 1, 1975?

Y: 1975, April, I stay in Battambang.

A: In Battambang. Okay.

Y: I don't know about Phnom Penh, I don't go there. (A: Okay) I know about Battambang, I go. I go. I know everything. (A: Sure) [Speaks in Khmer]

S: When they come in, the Khmer Rouge, they took the people that worked in the hospital, doctors, [Y: speaks in Khmer] teachers, they took and shot them. My grandfather knows about this.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Because he was the one, he knows about this. He was an undercover agent, so he knows what was going on.

A: Before Khmer Rouge took over Phnom Penh, were they killing people in the Provinces?

S: [Repeats question in Khmer].

A: Like doctors, and educated people, teachers.

Y & S: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: They did.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: They took doctors and they shot them near the lake called [Bon Prien].

A: Pom Bon Prien? And that's in Battambang Province?

Y: No, no Battambang. [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Outside of Battambang.

A: Just outside.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Another day they took the military, the chief, or you know, mayors and they took them and also to shoot them. Three hundred people nearly.

Y & S: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Oh this was after the Pol Pot.

Y & S: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: After, okay. After.

A: Okay. So let me ask you the question again.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: They took the soldiers and shot them behind [name unclear], in the area called [unclear]. (Y: In Khmer) 5,000 soldiers, they took them.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: So even the Khmer Rouge themselves, they say, that they admit to it that they killed 5,000 people.

A: Let me ask you a question. Before April 17, in the Provinces, were they killing doctors and teachers?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: No, they don't know. We don't know where they are. No.

A: Okay, good. So at what point did you decide to escape Cambodia?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Okay, no problem. Take a break. Okay, we take a break.

[They take a break and return]

A: Okay. Do you remember the day you decided to leave Cambodia?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He doesn't remember.

A: Do you remember what made you decide?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: He just remembers that 1976 he ran into the forest.

[All conversing together]

S: Yah, in 1976 he's in the forest.

A: [Speaking to someone else] Next week I'll come and interview you. [All laugh]
Okay, so you ran into the forest? Where did you go, what did you do?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: [Name unclear], okay, the Province called (--)

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: The jungle called [name unclear], okay

A: The area of the jungle called that?

S: Yah, the jungle called [name unclear]. He went and found [word unclear], village called [unclear]. Very dark at night. He left the [unclear], and went to the jungle as high as his waist, chest.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Going to the west, and he ran into a piece of long wood. And he holds the piece of wood, and he took the piece of wood in his hand and thrashed it forward in case there were snakes or other animals.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: And he heard a loud noise when he pushed the piece of long wood in front of him, forward, and loud noise.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Oh, and it was a snake. It was the sound of a snake. He doesn't know that I, but it's the sound of a snake that makes that noise. I wouldn't know.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: It just shows that his life is not over yet. Had he not taken the piece of long wood and thrashed it forward, he would not have known the snake was in front of him, and his life may be over.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: So he knows the snake is in front of him, so he goes backwards. And he takes a U-turn all around, and then goes back west again. He says it's a very sad story, by himself, alone in the jungle, deep jungle.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: One pinch of salt.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: No rice, no grain of salt, but he has a match, and it has three pieces of rock inside the match.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

End of Side I
Side II begins

A: ...with three rocks, and you could put kerosene, or some kind of gas in there to get a flame. Okay, what happened then?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He goes in the jungle, and he can only once a day light the match, once. (Y: Only once, one time) One time.

A: Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He doesn't know how many months he will be there for. Why? Does he wonder, he questions?

A: Yes, I do.

S: What do you wonder about? What do you question about?

A: I wonder what you were doing out there and how long it took you to get out of Cambodia?

S: [Repeat the question to (Y) in Khmer].

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He doesn't know. How did he survive? You questioned how did he survive in the jungle.

A: Yah, how did you survive out in the jungle?

S: Okay, with bamboo shoots he survived.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Very big these bamboo shoots in [unclear]. He pulls it out and he breaks it, and he cooks it, the bamboo shoots. That's how he survived.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He has a can. For the water he used a can, small can. He is sitting by the river, like a creek, and with the can (--)

Y: [Speaking in Khmer].

S: Lake? Pond? I said river. There are clams, empty shells near the creek, the river. And he says, if the animals take the clams, why is it so far away from the [unclear]. It's the birds. Well bird is an animal. Bird is an animal. It's a bird.

A: So if the bird took the clamshells it must be close to water. Right?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Okay. There's a little area inside the water, and it's just all clams inside the area. So he took the clams out and he breaks it, and he boils it in the water. And the crab, from one hole to the other, you can poke it and get the crab.

A: The crabs are hiding (S: Hiding, yah) in the hole, and you can poke through and they come out the other side? Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Yah, you clogged their holes.

A: Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: The crab he can eat, the bamboo shoots he can eat, and the clams, and fruit. He doesn't know what types of fruits they are, or fruits they are, but when you see the animals eating the fruits, because it's in the forest, you can watch them and then you taste a little bit. So in going forward you can see that the animals, like the birds, eat it, and you can also eat that particular fruit. (A: Okay) That's how you survive in the jungle.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: There are many other similar stories that he has not told you, but he can tell you some more. Maybe you ask how he months he stayed in the jungle.

A: How many months did you stay in the jungle? Do you remember?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: He doesn't remember, but almost two months. 1975?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: And then he kept on walking west. He kept on going west every day. And then he heard, he heard a noise.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Ah, now he hears that there are people on the other side, voices. So he follows the voices. And then after awhile the voices disappeared, and he doesn't know where [unclear]. And then maybe two more weeks went by.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: So he went further and ran into another river, creek, a small creek. And he looked on the other side and saw a house. He knew that would (--) Those houses on the other side of the river were Thai houses because the designs were different from the Khmer houses.

A: Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: And the he went, he went into the rice field and saw a woman in the rice field, and they took him to their house and they cooked for him. And then at nighttime they took them to the police, and the police checked him. They asked, "Do you have a gun?" Asked if he had a gun. And he said, "No."

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: And they say, you can stay here and sleep here. In the morning the police, they will send him to another village, maybe another headquarter for police station.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: And he stayed there at the other police head station for three, four nights. And they said that he has to go to [unclear], like camp. Okay, you have to go to a camp.

S & Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: See he spoke Thai, because of his six years of Thai. So he spoke Thai fluently with them. (A: Good) Lucky huh! (A: Yup) Very.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: They took him to a camp called Camp [Arang {unclear}].

A: Okay, [Arang {unclear}]. Yup.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: 1976 at Camp [Arang]. June 1976

A: How big was the camp when you arrived? Were there a lot of people there?

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: Yes there were a lot of people, Khmer. 200 people.

Y: About that.

A: Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: I guess the government, or (--)

Male Voice: The UN.

S: The UN? Okay.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: July 1976 the United Nations said you can go to the U.S. and they asked him to fill out a form that says how many family member he has, children.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: They asked, "How many children do you have, and the names of the children." He could not remember, only two days, because he was crazy, he cannot remember.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

S: They asked on the form, "If you go to the United States, what will you do?"
"Anything! I will do anything." And they say, "Okay." So they let him come. Why did they let you come [unclear]?

S & Y: [Both speak in Khmer].

S: Why the UN say, "Come to the United States?"

Y: [Speaks in Khmer].

[All speaking in Khmer]

S: So he say that he's involved in the military, you know, that's why they let him come immediately to the United States. That's what I was trying to ask, because basically it's asylum, you know.

Male voice: [Unclear]

S: Right, that's why they asked hi that, or else they probably wouldn't let him go back. His involvement in the military. Any other questions?

A: When did you come to the US? 1976?

Y: Yes.

A: And when did you come to Lowell?

Y: '84. '84. '84/85.

S: 1984

A: Where did you go first in the U.S. before Lowell?

Y: Tennessee, Memphis.

A: Where in Tennessee?

Y: Memphis.

A: Memphis?

Y: Yah. From Memphis to Washington.

S: Washington.

A: Washington, DC? (Y: Yes) Okay.

Y: From Washington to here.

A: To Lowell. (Y: Yes) Why did you come to Lowell?

Y: I come to Lowell. I had friends. I had friends here. They'd been here two years.

A: You had friends here that had been living here for two years?

Y: Yes.

A: What was your friends' name?

Y: My friends' name? I have [unclear] people in here.

A: Have a lot of people here, a lot of friends?

Y: Yes.

A: And did you come and you started working here?

Y: Yes.

A: Where did you work?

Y: I come here. I work in company [unclear], USCI, U S C I.

A: USCI Corporation?

Y: Yes. Yes, Corporation in Billerica.

A: In Billerica. What did you do for them?

Y: I'm machine operator.

A: Machine operator? (Y: Yah) Great. How did you like Lowell? What did you think about it when you first came?

Y: I think there's probably a lot, a lot of Cambodians.

A: A lot of Cambodians in Lowell?

Y: Yes, I like it.

A: And you liked that?

Y: Yah, I liked it. We had a lot of friends.

A: Good, good. Tell us, just a couple of more questions. Tell us about the book that you wrote?

S: He's got more than one book. He's got like six, seven books.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer] The Khmer Rouge (A: Yah), yah, the Khmer Rouge.

A: Why did you decide to write books?

S: That's a good question.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: He wants the children and grandchildren to know the stories.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Okay, he wants to end it for now. Okay, take a break!

A: I think that's it. Maybe one more question and then we stop. (Y: Yah) What exactly do you want future generations to remember about you, or Cambodian history? About your history, or Cambodian history?

S: Translate question in Khmer.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: He wants to let people know that Khmer Rouge killed people, did not feed people.

A: And that (--)

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: The Khmer Rouge has two types of, two motives, or two (--). One is killing with the hand, directly killing people. Two is killing indirect, indirectly.

Y: Direct and indirect. (A: Okay) [Speaks in Khmer]

S: They take and kill you right away, that's direct. Indirectly they did not give you food, [medication], and they make you work.

Y: [Speaks in Khmer]

S: Not two million [unclear].

A: Not two million? How many?

Y: I figure [unclear]

A: Five million people they killed?

Y: I think [unclear], Cambodia had [unclear], before [unclear].

A: So before they had seven million, and then after only have three and a half million.

Y: I think so.

A: Okay, and that's what you want people to know about.

Y: Yes, I want to know like that.

A: Yah. Hold the book for us and we're going to finish. We're taking one picture.

Y: Yah, okay.

A: Show the book.

?: Why don't you speak Khmer? You improve your Khmer Ali?

A: It's not your turn to talk either. [All laugh] Okay [says thank you in Khmer]

Y: Thank you.

End of Interview